

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 T-03 OMB-01 INRE-00 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 072434

O R 161145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3080

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECACTS BANGKOK

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

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CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1952

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08; 7/13 AF,
432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 16

REF: VIENTIANE 1922

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - GROUND ACTION DECREASED DURING PERIOD
14-15 MARCH, WITH ALL INCIDENTS CONFINED TO MR- III AND MR- IV.
THERE WERE NINE MINOR AND NO MAJOR INCIDENTS. THREE CLASHES
OCCURRED NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE NEAR VILLAGE RLG FORCES ARE
ATTEMPTING TO RETAKE, WHERE ENEMY MORTAR ATTACK CAUSED HEAVY
FRIENDLY CASUALTIES. RLAF FLEW SIX T-28 SORTIES IN MR- III AND TWO
AC-47 SORTIES IN MR- IV. REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES ON 13
MARCH TOTALLED 87 ROUNDS IN MR- III AND 10 ROUNDS IN MR- IV.
POLITICAL - POLITICAL GROUP MET MARCH 15 AND 16, DISCUSSING
FORMATION OF NEW PGNU AND CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL. MILITARY GROUP
MET MARCH 15 AND-- IN MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH-- AGREED TO EXCHANGE
DRAFT PROTOCOLS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE

A. MR I: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. PL PLATOON AT BAN
HATSA (PC 6603) HAS REPORTEDLY RAISED PL FLAG.

B. MR II: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED. FRIENDLY FORCES
REOCCUPIED VILLAGE OF SOP KHAO (UG 1599), 17 KM NORTHWEST OF
BOUAM LONG, WITHOUT INCIDENT.

C. MR III: FRIENDLY FORCES SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES WHILE CLAIMING
TWO ENEMY KIA AND AT LEAST SEVEN ENEMY WIA IN FOUR SCATTERED
CLASHES MARCH 14-15. FRIENDLY BATTALION ATTACKED BY ENEMY
COMPANY AT WC 420930, 33 KM SOUTHEAST OF KENGKOK EVENING OF
MARCH 14 (NO CASUALTIES). AT ABOUT SAME TIME, FRIENDLY UNIT
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CLASHED WITH TEN ENEMY AT WE033115, 26 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHET

(ONE ENEMY KIA, 5 ENEMY ESTIMATED WIA). LATER THAT EVENING, 15 ENEMY ATTACKED FRIENDLY PLATOON AT WE194114, 40 KM EAST OF THAKHEK, AND WITHDREW AFTER TEN- MINUTE FIREFIGHT (TWO ENEMY WIA). ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 15, FRIENDLY COMPANY 14 KM SOUTH OF THAKHEK WAS ATTACKED BY ENEMY COMPANY (ONE ENEMY KIA). RLAF FLEW SIX T- 28 SORTIES AGAINST ENEMY TROOPS 15 KM SOUTH OF THAKHEK, WHO WERE APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN PRECEDING ATTACK.

D. MR IV: THE BATTLE FOR BAN KENGKOU (XC 124356), 28 KM NORTH-EAST OF KHONG SEDONE, CONTINUED MARCH 14-15 WITH FRIENDLY FORCES APPARENTLY UNABLE TO SECURE A FOOTHOLD IN THE TOWN. ENEMY MORTAR ATTACK ON NEARBY POSITION ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 14 CAUSED 11 FRIENDLY KIA, 12 WIA. TWO OTHER CLASHES IN SAME AREA MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF MARCH 15 CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. FIRENDLY POSITION AT XB 278761, SIX KM SOUTHWEST OF PAKSONG, WAS ATTACKED BY AN ESTIMATED TWO ENEMY COMPANIES FOR 20 MINUTES MARCH 14 (NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, 3 ENEMY ESTIMATED KIA). ANOTHER CLASH WAS REPORTED 4 KM SOUTHWEST OF PAKSONG ON MARCH 15, BUT DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE. RLAF FLEW TWO AC-47 SORTIES THE NIGHT OF MARCH 14-15 IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT 2 KM WEST OF PAKSONG. PL FLAG RAISINGS WERE REPORTED EAST OF KHONG SEDONE AT BAN KOXONG (WC 962283) AND BAN CHALANSE (WC 937262).

E. MR V: NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED 13 ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 242 AS OF MORNING 14 MARCH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

BOTH THE JOINT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUB- COMMITTEES MET MARCH 15. POLITICAL GROUP DISCUSSED MATTERS RELATING TO FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION, INCLUDING SUCH MATTERS AS NUMBER OF CABINET POSITIONS WHICH WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND ALLOCATION OF VARIOUS PORTFOLIOS WITHIN THAT GOVERNMENT. RLG DELEGATION SPOKESMAN NOUPHAT CHOUNRAMANY SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FORMED BY MARCH 23. POLITICAL GROUP MET AGAIN MARCH 16 AND REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED FORMATION OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL. LPF SPOKESMAN ON MARCH 15 SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO INDICATE WHEN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WOULD RETURN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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VIENTIANE FROM SAM NEUA. MILITARY GROUP, IN ITS MEETING MARCH 15, REPORTEDLY AGREED TO EXCHANGE DRAFT PROTOCOLS, A MAJO
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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DOD
JAKARTA
MULTIPLE

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